(c) A number of steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of implementation of PMGSY. The budgetary allocation for the programme has been systematically increased. During the year 2003-04, allocation for this programme was Rs. 2325 crore. In 2006-07, this has been raised to Rs. 5225.62 crore (Rs. 5475.62 crore at Revised Estimate stage). In addition, a separate window with a corpus Rs. 4000 crore has been created in NABARD for financing rural roads under Bharat Nirman. For the year 2007-08, budgetary allocation has been further raised to Rs. 6500 crore. In addition, Rs. 4000 crore will be available through the special window of NABARD. Implementation of programme is being monitored continuously. Standard bidding document provides for interest free advance for procurement of required Plants and Machinery. Training to contractors' staff and field staff is also being imparted to improve productivity and efficiency.

Ranking for implementing rural development schemes

†1004. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rural Development Ministry has started a ranking method for implementing the Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage the States lagging behind in implementation of the rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) awareness generation, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels, for proper implementation and maximum utilization of funds under rural development programmes. The Ministry also helps the State Governments by providing technical guidance and training for capacity building.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.